## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH (Assam) : Sir I present the Eighth Report (in English and Hindi) of the Committee on Rules.

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## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

SHRI HANSRAJ BHARDWAJ (Madhya Pradesh): Sir I present a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Forty-Third Report of the Committee of Privileges.

## REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir I present the Seventy-ninth Report (in English and Hindi) of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests on the Information Technology Bill, 1999.

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## Statement regarding Government Business

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the remaining part of Budget Session, 2000 will consist of:-

1. Consideration and passing of the Semi-Conductor Integrated Circuits Layout Designs Bill, 1999.
2. Consideration of amendments made by Lok Sabha in the Designs Bill, 1999 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
3. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Lok Sabha:-

(i) The Constitution (89th Amendment) Bill, 2000

(ii) The Constitution (90th Amendment) Bill, 2000

4. Consideration and return of the President's Emoluments and Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2000 as passed by Lok Sabha.

5. Consideration and passing of the following Bills after they are passed by Lok Sabha:-

(i) The Information Technology Bill, 1999

(ii) The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2000

(iii) The Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups (Facilities) (Amendment) Bill, 2000

6. Discussion on the working of the Ministry of Defence.

7. Consideration of Resolution regarding recommendations made in the Third Report of the Railway Convention Committee (1998) appointed to review the Rate of Dividend payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues etc., which was presented in the Rajya Sabha on 19.4.1999.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have one point for clarification. The Press here has widely reported that a few days back when the Finance Minister had gone to Thailand to attend a meeting, he announced that within the coming ten to fifteen days we are going to sell off 15 to 20 public sector companies. Now, the question is whether, while Parliament Session is on, it is fair on the part of the hon. Finance Minister to make such an announcement and, that too, outside the country, without informing the Parliament. Sir, we have been raising this question. The Government has not been forthcoming with the information on the kind of methodology that it will be adopting in re-evaluating the assets of these national companies at the current prices. At the same time, they are going out and making such announcements. This is an affront to the House. This is a very serious question, Sir. So, we have to seek clarifications from the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not allowed that. (*Interruptions*) No. We will take up Calling Attention now.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, this is a very serious issue and...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyway, you have spoken. It is all right. Now, we will be taking up the Calling Attention Motion on a matter of urgent public importance.

Hon. Members, now, this is a Calling Attention Motion. We had very

good discussions on two or three Calling Attention Motions. But we also exceeded our time-limit. So, the first speaker has to confine himself to six to seven minutes and the other speakers to not more than five minutes. The first speaker will set the tone. Shri Suresh Pachouri would confine himself to seven minutes...

**श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे** (गुजरात) : महोदय, परसों यहां जो काश्मीर के लिए डिसकशन हुआ वह भी लम्बा चला। यह भी महत्वपूर्ण सवाल है। कई लोग देश में पीने के पानी के लिए तरस रहे हैं। इसमें हम कुछ न बोलें क्योंकि पांच मिनट में तो कुछ होगा ही नहीं **...(व्यवधान)...**

**श्री सभापति** : आनरेबुल मेम्बर...**(व्यवधान)**... आप मेरी बात सुन लीजिए। आपकी बात मैंने सुन ली है **...(व्यवधान)**... अगर आप चाहते हैं लम्बा चले तो हम कालिंग अटेंशन नहीं रखेंगे। आप नोटिस दीजिए शार्ट ड्यूरेशन डिसकशन की उसमें हो जाएगा। कालिंग अटेंशन का रूल है, जो रूल बुक में है और आगे यहां हुए हैं। इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि अगर आप चाहते हैं तो we will not take it up today; we will take it up as Short Duration Discussion. But in the Business Advisory Committee, all the party leaders said that we should have a Calling Attention Motion. Even today morning I talked to them and we decided that everybody must confine himself to the time-limit -- seven minutes for the first speaker and five minutes for the others. You talk to your party and then let me know what the decision of your party is.

**श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे** : मेरा सबमिशन यह है कि यह सभी पर लगना चाहिए। हमारा ऐसा कहना है कि एक कालिंग अटेंशन को एक टाइम दें दूसरे को दूसरा दें तो **...(व्यवधान)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have taken this decision in consultation with all the parties.

**श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे** : आप जो तय करेंगे वह हम करेंगे।

**श्री सभापति** : मैं नहीं कहूंगा कुछ। जो पार्टियों ने तय किया है वह मैं कर रहा हूं। Now,...

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT (Gujarat) : One minute, Sir. The situation in Gujarat is very serious. A State Government Minister is on fast protesting against the Government for the past one week. That is the situation. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I appreciate. *(Interruptions)* I appreciate. *(Interruptions)* I appreciate. But the notice for the motion has been given under the rules. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Sir, two, three or five mintues should be given. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Sir, the situation is very serious. ..*(Interruptions)*... Sir, the Minister is on fast. ..*(Interruptions)*... He is helpless. Sir, this is the situation. ...*(Interruptions)*,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I totally appreciate. The House is with you. But, that does not mean we should break the rule and not able to confine ourselves to the discussion pointedly and effectively. I think the hon. Members are capable enough of pointedly and effectively pointing out from all parties. .. *(Interruptions)*... That is all right.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM (Karnataka): Sir, the other day I raised the issue of import of agricultural commodities. You were kind enough on that day to say that a discussion will be allowed on that. ..*(Interruptions)*... I have given notice twice to this effect. ..*(Interruptions)*... But, it has not been permitted. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yesterday also it was not permitted. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Sir, why is it so?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The point basically is that we discussed this in the Business Advisory Committee. A number of agendas were there. We have to confine ourselves what the Business Advisory Committee has decided. ..*(Interruptions)*.. It is not that I am against it. The question is of finding time. We will certainly try to find time if it is possible.

**श्री खान गुफ़रान ज़ाहिदी** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सभापति जी, मेरा कहना यह है कि यह ऐसा इंपार्टेंट सवाल है, यह ऐसा मामला है कि सारे मुल्क में मुख्तलिफ जगहों पर ये मामले हैं। अगर आप कालिंग अटेंशन में इसको कबूल कर लेंगे और इसमें आप 7 मिनट और 5 मिनट की शर्तें लगा देंगे तो जहां यह प्राब्लम सीरियस है वहां के बारे में कैसे लोग पूरी बात कहेंगे? इसको शार्ट ड्यूरेशन डिसकशन में अब ला नहीं सकते, कैसे लायेंगे? इस पर सभी बोलना चाहते हैं। यह बहुत इंपार्टेंट मामला है। पीने का पानी भी नहीं है और मवेशियों के लिए भी पानी उपलब्ध नहीं है। आदमी भूख हड़ताल पर बैठे हुए हैं। कैसे काम चलेगा? डिसकशन शॉर्ट करके यह पूरा हो नहीं सकता। हर स्टेट का मामला है, हर स्टेट के सवालात हैं। अब या तो इसको शार्ट ड्यूरेशन डिसकशन में रखिए ताकि ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोग अपनी बात कह सकें ...**(व्यवधान)**... लेकिन यह कालिंग अटेंशन में है, तो कालिंग अटेंशन में ऐसा हो नहीं सकता।

MR. CHAIRMAN:Already we have taken ten minutes. *(Interruptions)* Yesterday also this issue was discussed in the meeting. ... *(Interruptions)*... Shri Suresh Pachouri.

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## CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

### Depletion of water resources in various parts of the country

**श्री सुरेश पचौरी** (मध्य प्रदेश) : माननीय सभापति जी, मैं देश के विभिन्न भागों में जल संसाधनों की कमी की ओर जल संसाधन मंत्री का ध्यान आकर्षित करता हूं ।

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Member, Shri Suresh Pachouri for raising this issue on such a topical subject. Sir, I also thank you for allowing this subject to be discussed in the House.

Sir, long-term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown a situation of fall in the level of ground water in various parts of the country. The names of the States/districts showing pockets where fall in ground water level for more than 4 metres (1981999) has been observed are indicated in the statement which is before you.

Sir, the main reasons for decline in the level of ground water are:

(i) Rapid pace of urbanisation has resulted in reduction in recharge of aquifers. Pervious areas have become less pervious.

(ii) Increasing demand in agricultural and industrial sectors as well as domestic needs for the ever growing population results in high stress on ground water.

(iii) Change in cropping pattern in order to raise water intensive crops has resulted in over-exploitation of ground water in certain areas.

(iv) Stress on ground water during drought period when all other sources fall.

Water, that is to say, water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and